Firing on LoC after ceasefire declaration

1592. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of firing incidents which took place on the LoC since the ceasefire declared in November, 2003;

(b) which are the places where the firing took place; and

(c) what is the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) There have been four incidents of firing along the Line of Control (LoC) since the ceasefire was declared in November, 2003.

(b) The firing took place twice in the Rajouri Sector and once each in Palanwala and Poonch Sector.

(c) Director General of Military Operations (DGMOs) has raised the issue with his Pakistan counterpart and strong protest has been lodged about these incidents. The Pakistan DGMO however denied complicity of Pakistani troops but has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to uphold the ceasefire.

Sanctioning of Defence land for Metro Rail project i*n* Bangalore

1593. SHRI K.B. KRISHNAMURTHY:

DR. VIJAY MALLYA:

SHRILALITSURI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any demand from the Government of Karnataka for sanctioning 102 acres of Defence land in Bangalore for the Metro Rail Project;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government;

(c) when are the final orders expected to be issued to hand over the land;

(d) whether there are any formalities to be observed by the State Government; and

(e) what steps are proposed to be taken to ensure that there is no misutilisation of Defence land for commercial purposes?